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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION TALLIES

(71) I, JOSEPHINE SLAVIN, a British Subject of 9 Spencer Drive, London, N2, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to identification tallies and in particular to identification tallies which may be clipped onto the hooks of coat hangers. Garments hanging on coat hangers can for example be easily and quickly identified by means of such identification tallies, the sides of which may bear markings or colouring indicating for example the size, style or markers name of garments supported on coat hangers provided with the tallies. It will be appreciated that such tallies are of especial value in shops selling clothes, since, with such tallies in use, a customer can readily identify garments which are of a desired size or style.

One known garment identification tally is constructed in the form of a hollow right cylinder having a head and a base, the head of which comprises a substantially closed surface having an axial hole therein, and the base of which is open. Such a tally may only be mounted on or removed from a coat hanger by clipping it over the end of the hook provided on the coat hanger. This process can prove tedious when a large number of tallies have to be mounted on or removed from coat hangers, as is the case for example, in clothing shops.

Another prior proposed garment identification tally has an outer frusto-conical wall suitable for bearing identification markings, and an inner tubular wall co-axial with the outer wall and having a diameter similar to that of the wire forming a hook of a coat hanger. A radially inwardly tapering vertical slot extends from the outer wall to the inner wall, the walls and slot having the same height. The inner and outer walls are joned at their upper ends by a flat portion of the tally which is "C" shaped in plan and the tally appears from above as a disc with a keyhole shaped portion cut out. Such a tally may be readily clipped onto or removed from the hook of a coat hanger. A disadvantage of this type of tally is that it may be removed very readily from a clothes hanger with the application of very little force to the tally and thus when such tallies are used in shops which sell clothes, many of the tallies are accidentally knocked off coat hangers or are deliberately removed from the hooks of the coat hangers, for example, by young children who tend to grasp the tallies when they are formed of brightly coloured plastics material.

According to this invention there is provided an identification tally which may be clipped on a hook of a coat hanger, said tally comprising a member having an inner portion adapted to embrace a part of a hook of a coat hanger, said inner portion comprising a generally tubular portion of said member, and two spaced walls extending generally radially from said tubular portion defining an arcuate slot leading from said inner portion to the periphery of the member to permit said part of said hook to be slidden along said slot to said inner portion.

Advantageously the ends of said two walls remote from said tubular portion may be interconnected by an outer wall. The outer wall may be substantially circular in plan.

Advantageously the said walls and said tubular portion are each of the same height. It will be appreciated that in such a case the tallies may be made by an extrusion method although at present it is preferred to use a moulding method.

Conveniently said tubular portion and said outer wall may be coaxial.

To facilitate mounting the tally on the hook of a coat hanger, conveniently the portion of the slot adjacent the periphery of said member is in the form of a mouth having rounded divergent lips.

Conveniently the walls defining said arcuate slot are such that a part of said slot adjacent said inner portion has a width less than the width of the remainder of the slot.

Advantageously one of the walls defining the slot may be provided with an inwardly directed protrusion so that the slot tapers towards the inner end thereof. Conveniently the protrusion may extend accross substantially the entire width of the slot. Alternatively both of the walls defining the slot may be provided with inwardly directed protrusions so that the slot tapers towards the inner end thereof, and each such protrusion may extend across substantially half the width of the slot.

Identification tallies in accordance with the invention may be formed of plastics or other materials, but preferably the tallies are formed of a resilient material.

The tallies may be formed in different colours to identify different garments and/or size markings or the like may be marked on the tallies.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood and so that further features thereof may be appreciated the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the invention,

Figure 2 is an underneath plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 1,

Figure 3 is an underneath plan view of a second embodiment of the invention,

Figure 4 is an underneath plan view of a third embodiment of the invention, and

Figure 5 shows a tally in accordance with the invention mounted on a clothes hanger on an inverted conical mounting member.

Throughout the drawings like references refer to life parts.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2 an identification tally mountable on a hook of a coat hanger comprises a member 1 of resilient, coloured plastics material, said member comprising an inner tubular portion 2 adapted to embrace a part of a hook of a coat hanger, an outer tubular portion 3 with identification markings on the outer surface thereof, and an arcuate slot 4 leading from said inner portion 2 to the outer periphery of the outer tubular portion 3 of the member 1. The inner and outer portions are coaxial and are of the same height. The arcuate slot 4 is defined by two spaced walls 5, 6 of the same height as the inner and outer portions. The walls 5, 6 forming the slot are spaced sufficiently to permit said part of a hook of a coat hanger to be slidden along the slot 4 to the inner tubular portion 2 of the member 1. The slot 4 is of substantially constant width throughout its length.

The portion of the slot adjacent the outer periphery of the member is in the form of a mouth having rounded divergent lips 7, 8 to facilitate the introduction of a part of a hook to the slot 4.

In using a tally as above described to identify, for example, clothing of a particular size mounted on a coat hanger, the tally will be secured to a vertical stem part of the hook of the coat hanger by urging the tally towards the coat hanger, the stem passing between the divergent lips 7, 8 of the peripheral mouth of the slot 4, and forcing the walls 5, 6 of the slot 4 apart by a small amount. The stem of the hook is then slidden to the tubular inner portion 2 of the member 1, which then embraces the stem of the hook and retains the tally in position. The identification markings are so located on the outer surface of the outer tubular portion 3 of the member 1 that at least one marking can be seen when viewing the tally from any direction.

It is difficult to remove a tally as above described from a hanger since in removing the tally the walls 5, 6 of the slot must be separated slightly and the inner end of the slot is not provided with divergent lips to facilitate the separation of the walls. Also the arcuate nature of the slot makes it more difficult to pull the tally from a hanger.

In a shop that sells clothes a tally may be provided on every clothes hanger supporting clothing, to indicate the size of the item of clothing supported on each hanger. The tally may readily be positioned on the hanger but it is difficult for young children to pull the tallies off the hanger, or for the tallies to be accidentally knocked off the hangers.

Referring now to Figure 3 the illustrated tally is substantially as described above but one wall 6 defining the slot 4 has an inwardly directed protrusion 9 or the like, of the same height as the wall, the protrusion 9 being formed in such a way that the slot 4 tapers towards its inner end. The protrusion 9 extends substantially across the entire width of the slot so that the width of the slot 4 immediately adjacent said inner tubular portion 2 is substantially less than the width of said mouth of the slot 4. In fact the protrusion 9 may actually touch the other wall 5 defining the slot 4.

It will be appreciated that in using this further embodiment of the invention the protrusion 9 will move away from the wall 5 defining the slot 4 when the tally is being mounted on a hook of a hanger, and will then return to its initial position, thus firmly retaining the tally in position on the hanger, and making it very difficult to remove the tally from the hanger merely by pulling the tally. However, the tally can be removed from the hanger by sliding the tally around the hook until the tally slides off the free end of the hook of the hanger.

Figure 4 illustrates a further embodiment in which both the walls defining the slot are provided with protrusions 10, 11 each extending over substantially half the width of the slot. In fact the protrusions 10, 11 may touch each other. This embodiment operates in a manner which is similar to that of the embodiment illustrated in figure 3 but on locating on the hook both the protrusions 10, 11 will move away from each other to permit the shank of a hook of a coat-hanger to pass therebetween, and the protrusions 10, 11 then return to their initial positions making it very difficult to remove the tally from the hanger merely by pulling on the tally.

It will be appreciated that the outer peripheral member and the inner portion need not be circular but may, for example, have a triangular or square appearance in plan. In addition the heights of the inner portions, the slot and the periphery, need not all be the same.

It will also be appreciated that in other embodiments of the invention various means may be provided so that the slot adjacent the inner portion has a width less than the width of the remainder of the slot, for example the inner ends of one or both of the walls defining the slot may be provided with a series of hemispherical nodules, or inwardly directed tangs, or serrations.

Referring to figure 5 a tally 1 in accordance with the invention is illustrated in use, secured to the hook of a coat-hanger. Whilst, in many cases, the tally may merely be snapped into position on the hook of a coat-hanger, it has been found that if the item of clothing to be mounted on the hanger has a high collar, for example, the tally may actually be concealed by the item of clothing.

Figure 5 illustrates a tally 1 which is mounted on a hollow conical tally support member 12, which support member is formed of a plastics material. The tally support member has a vertical slot 13 to provide access to the central hollow region of the member, and also has an upper cylindrical protrusion 14, which is adapted to engage in the opening defined between the inner tubular portion 2 and the outer tubular portion 3 of the tally.

When the tally 1 has been mounted on the support 12 the shank of a hook 15 of a coat-hanger is passed simultaneously through the slot 4 of the tally and the slot 13 of the support, and the support and tally are thus connected to the coat-hanger. The lower part of the support engages with the lower part of the hook or some other part of the coat-hanger, thus keeping the tally itself in an elevated position, so that the tally will not be masked or hidden by clothing supported on the coat-hanger.

Whilst figure 5 shows the hook and part of the cross-piece of one particular type of coat-hanger it is to be appreciated that all the embodiments of the invention may be used with any type of coat-hanger.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. An identification tally which may be clipped on a hook of a coat hanger, said tally comprising a member having an inner portion adapted to embrace a part of a hook of a coat hanger, said inner portion comprising a generally tubular portion of said member, and two spaced walls extending generally radially from said tubular portion defining an arcuate slot leading from said inner portion to the periphery of the member to permit said part of said hook to be slidden along said slot to said inner portion.

2. A tally according to claim 1 wherein the ends of said two walls remote from said tubular portion are interconnected by an outer wall forming said periphery of the member.

3. A tally according to claim 2 wherein said outer wall is substantially circular in plan.

4. A tally according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the said walls and said tubular portion are each of the same height.

5. A tally according to claim 2 or any claim dependent thereon wherein said tubular portion and said outer wall are coaxial.

6. A tally according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the portion of the slot adjacent the periphery of the said member is in the form of a mouth having rounded divergent lips.

7. A tally according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the walls defining said arcuate slot are such that a part of said slot adjacent said inner portion has a width less than the width of the remainder of the slot.

8. A tally according to Claim 7 wherein one of the walls defining the slot is provided with an inwardly directed protrusion so that the slot tapers towards the inner end thereof.

9. A tally according to Claim 8 wherein the protrusion extends across substantially the entire width of the slot.

10. A tally according to Claim 7 wherein both of the walls defining the slot are provided with an inwardly directed protrusion so that the slot tapers towards the inner end thereon.

11. A tally according to Claim 10 wherein each protrusion extends across substantially half the width of the slot.

12. A tally according to any one of the preceding claims formed of a resilient material.

13. A tally according to any one of the

preceding claims in combination with a tally support member adapted to maintain the tally in an elevated position on a coat-hanger.

14. A combination according to Claim 13 wherein the support member is a hollow conical member having means to engage with said tally.

15. A tally substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings.

16. A tally substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

17. A tally substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in Figure 4 of the accompanying drawings.

18. A tally in combination with a support member substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in Figure 5 of the accompanying drawings.

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1510479 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
1 SHEET *This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale*

Fig 1.

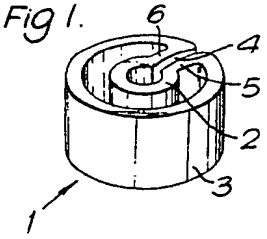


Fig.2.

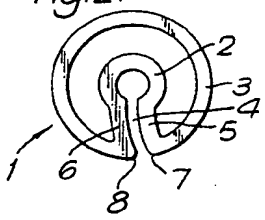


Fig. 3.

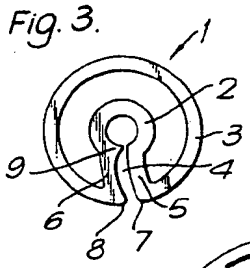
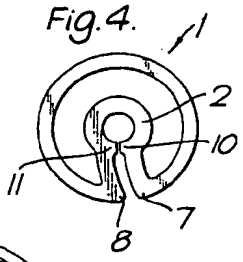


Fig.4.



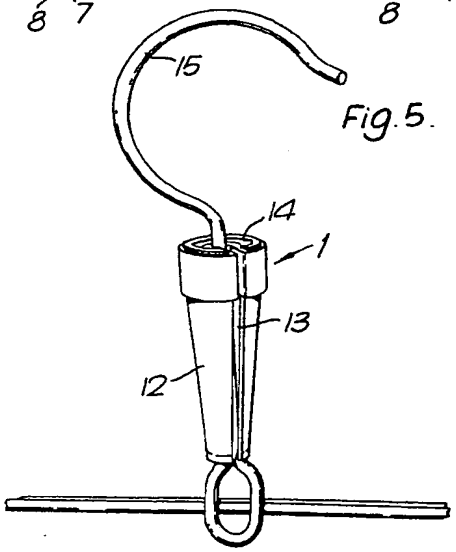


Fig.5.